



Office of the Secretary
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**TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA® ANNOUNCES
2006 NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS
*Outstanding Public Lands Volunteers, Groups and Partnerships
to be Honored with Annual Award***

WASHINGTON – Executive Director Michelle Cangelosi announced today the recipients of the 2006 Take Pride in America National Award in a variety of categories. The award winners were selected for their outstanding volunteer efforts on Federal, state and local public lands. These individuals, groups, corporations and partnerships will be honored at an awards ceremony to be held September 14 at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC.

“These Take Pride award winners embody the mission of Take Pride by accepting responsibility and taking action to enhance our public lands,” Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne said. “It is through their stewardship that they are creating a lasting legacy within their community.”

“The nominations were outstanding, as we learned more about the hard work and generous donation of time by volunteers across our country. This is an exciting time of year because we can celebrate and thank volunteers for their service to our public lands,” Cangelosi said. “It is an honor to invite our 2006 award winners to Washington, DC to be recognized for their continued commitment to our parks, refuges and recreation areas.”

Today’s winners represent ten categories, with winners in the Federal Land Manager category to be announced later this month. The volunteer projects range from an individual who arranged for elementary students to plant a vegetable garden for seniors to a large scale beach cleanup which involved 6,400 volunteers who removed 235,000 pounds of debris in three hours.

The panel of judges selected the winners from nominations representing individuals, groups and projects in 32 different states. The judges, representatives of government agencies within the Department of the Interior, scored the applications based upon the scope of their work, the measurable impact of their results, their collaborative partnerships and their demonstration of the mission of Take Pride.

2006 Take Pride in America National Award Winners by Category

Outstanding Take Pride Supporter

- Ford Motor Company; Nationwide

Corporation

- Salt River Tubing & Recreation; Mesa, AZ

Individual

- Deborah Goff; Westminster, MD
- Lauren Giebler; Aurora, CO
- James Keith; Brusly, LA
- Karen Smith; Jacksonville, FL
- Richard Stevens; Kealahou, HI

Youth/ Youth Group

- PAWS (Promoting Awesome Watershed Stewardship); Dunnellon, FL

Non-Profit Organization

- Citizens for a Litter-Free Choctaw County; Soper, OK
- Student Conservation Association - Invasive Species Project; Nationwide
- Black Canyon Trail Coalition; Black Canyon City, AZ
- Ardmore Beautification Council; Ardmore, OK

School Program

- Discovery School; Spokane, WA
- Palm Bay Elementary School; Palm Bay, FL
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Middle School; Houston, TX
- Pi Beta Phi Elementary School; Gatlinburg, TN

Local Government Event/ Program

- Lima-Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership; Lima, OH

Federal Volunteer Event/ Program

- Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program; Boulder City, NV

Public/ Private Partnership

- Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office and Boy Scouts of America, Yuma Ocotillo District; Yuma, AZ
- Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers; Roseburg, OR
- Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program; Austin, TX

Faith Based Group

- Marys & Marthas; Clarion, IA

About Take Pride in America®

Take Pride in America, an initiative of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is a nationwide partnership program which inspires Americans to volunteer in caring for their public lands. Their goal is to instill an active sense of ownership and responsibility in every citizen for natural, cultural and historic resources, and to support and recognize the efforts of those who volunteer for public lands. Through a web-based search engine, Take Pride offers a database for short-term and long-term volunteer projects on public lands, as well as assistance for project planning. Additionally, Take Pride rewards exceptional volunteer service by individuals and groups with awards and appreciation certificates. For more information, visit www.TakePride.gov.